(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial assistance being given by Government for its rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Foodgrain subsidy

1974. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas for which subsidies are given under foodgrain subsidy; and

(b) how much of the subsidies reaches to the poor and the number of people benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Foodgrains subsidy is provided under the following heads:—

(i) *Consumer Subsidy*—to meet the difference between the economic cost and Central Issue Price for foodgrains distributed under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes, and realization from sales in case of other schemes; and

(ii) *Buffer subsidy*—to meet the expenditure incurred by the Food Corporation of India (freight, interest, storage charges etc.) on maintaining buffer stocks of foodgrains for the food security of the country.

(b) The amounts due as subsidy are released to the FCI and the State Governments who have opted for the Decentralised Procurement Scheme on the basis of the quantity of foodgrains actually released for

distribution under the Welfare Schemes and other Schemes of the Government. Under the TPDS, the number of beneficiaries is 6.5 crore households which includes one crore households covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme.

Hunger Free India Mission

1975. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mission "hunger-free-India" to be completed by the year 2007;

(b) if so, the details including the steps taken for achieving the above;

(c) if so, the details of National and International agencies/ Departments/Ministries associated with the above task;

(d) if so, the details of the "hunger hot spots" of the country identified as a part of the above mission; and

(e) if so, the action taken, if any, to end poverty induced 'chronic hunger' and the 'transient hunger' caused by drought and natural calamities, as of today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Action has been in hand to ensure food security for all and to reform and improve the Public Distribution System for the benefit of the Poorest of the Poor in rural and urban areas. Towards this end, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana was commenced in December 2000 to provide 25 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice to the beneficiaries identified by the State Governments and UT Administrations. The Scale of issue to these beneficiaries has been enhanced to 35 kg. per family per month with effect from April 2002. The Yojana which initially covered 1 crore Poorest of the Poor families has been expanded to cover another 50 lakh BPL families.

Besides, various welfare schemes such as the Targeted Public Distribution System, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Mid-day Meal, Integrated Child Development Scheme etc. are also under